

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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R 171540Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 902

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11078

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

BEIRUT PASS DAMASCUS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, XF

SUBJ: KUZNETSOV COMMENTS ON MIDDLE EAST

1. DURING MY CALL ON KUZNETSOV ON OTHER BUSINESS
JULY 17, I ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS OR
NEW THOUGHTS ON THE MIDDLE EAST WHICH I MIGHT REPORT
TO WASHINGTON. HE SAID THERE IS NOTHING NEW, BUT
SOVIETS WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHEN GENEVA WILL COME TO
LIFE.

2. I ASKED WHETHER FAHMY VISIT WERE RELATED TO TIMING
OF GENEVA RESUMPTION. HE SAID NO, ADDING--WITH A
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STRAIGHT FACE, AS ALWAYS--THAT BOTH SIDES WANTED TO HAVE

MORE TIME TO PREAPRE FOR THE MEETING. RESPONDING TO QUESTION ON ARAFAT VISIT, KUZNETSOV SAID HE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT TIMING--JULY AND AUGUST ARE VACATION MONTHS FOR SOVIET LEADERS. HE DID NOT RESPOND WHEN I ASKED IF VISIT WOULD BE AN OFFICIAL ONE.

3. MY QUESTIONS ON DIFFICULTY OF DEVELOPING UNIFIED PALESTINIAN POSITION YIELDED HIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT THERE IS LACK OF UNITY, ALTHOUGH PROGRESS COULD BE SEEN AS RESULT LAST PALESTINIAN CONGRESS AND PLO SEEMS TO BE THE LEADING ORGANIZATION. KSLNETSOV ASSERTED THAT TO DELAY MEPC BECAUSE OF PALESTININAS WOULD NOT BE A GOOD REASON; CONSULTATIONS ON OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS SHOULD CONTINUE, BUT THIS DID NOT MEAN CONFERENCE COULD NOT BE CONVENED WHILE CONSULTATIONS CONTINUE. IF WE WAIT UNTIL ALL PROBLEMS ARE WORKED OUT TO CONVENE CONFERENCE, WE WILL WAIT A LONG TIME. THOSE WHO INSIST ON CLARIFYING THIS AND THAT POINT MERELY SEEK DELAY.

4. I SAID I GATHERED FROM HIS REMARKS THAT SOVIETS WANT CONVOCATION OF MEPC AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WITH PARTICIPATION OF PALESTINIANS TO BE DECODED LATER IF NECESSARY. KUZKETSOV BACKPEDALLED SLIGHTLY, SAYING HE DID NOT MEAN TO GO BEYOND FORMULATION IN SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE, WHICH DID NOT SPECIFY WHEN PALESTINIANS WOULD PARTICIPATE; SOVIETS ARE NOT AGAINST PARTICIPATION FROM VERY BEGINNING.

5. I SAID U.S. WOULD NOT WANT TO DELAY MEPC UNTIL PALESTINIAN QUESTION SETTLED, BECAUSE THAT QUESTION MIGHT BE AROUND FOR A LONG TIME. WE BELEIVE STEP-BY-STEP APPORACH IS MOST PRACTICAL, AND THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE OVERALL SETTLEMENT ON IRRAEL WOULD FAIL.

6. KUZNETSOV REITERATED BASIC SOVIET POSITION ON ME SETTLEMENT: ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, JUST RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS. WHILE EARLIER EGYPTIAN PROPOSALS HAVE ENVISAGED GRADUAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, THERE ARE NOW INDICATIONS THAT SOME ISRAELI LEADERS THINK DISENGAGEMENT

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IS ENOUGH AND SETTLEMENT CAN STOP THERE. THIS IS MISTAKEN PERCEPTION WHICH COULD LEAD TO RESUMPTIN OF VIOLENCE.

7. I CONCLUDED DISCUSSION BY SAYING THAT U.S. WOULD SEEK OVERALL GOALS OF UN RESOLUTION THROUGH STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH.
STOESSEL

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